

Vocational Agriculture Education in Connecticut

Overview

Ongoing research in agricultural biotechnology, agricultural engineering, marine science technology as well as other emerging agricultural industries have revolutionized the field of agriculture. Vocational agriculture centers in Connecticut are meeting the challenge by providing educational programs in the field of agriculture and related occupations. To provide adequate training for those students planning a career in agriculture, Connecticut has designated regional vocational agriculture centers in 19 comprehensive high schools to serve students. The program prepares students for entry-level employment or higher education in the fields of agriculture, which including aquaculture. Local or regional boards of education may be designated as regional centers if approved by the State Board of Education.

The multiple-teacher regional agriculture center approach enables organized instruction to be more effective in meeting the specific needs of the student. The options available to the student should reflect offerings within the State of Connecticut Curriculum Frameworks including plant science systems, animal science systems, natural resources and environmental systems, aquaculture and marine-related systems, and agricultural mechanics systems.

A comprehensive agriculture science and technology Education program consists of the following elements:

Classroom instruction designed to prepare students for the emerging agricultural science and technology field. The broad-based curriculum incorporates cutting-edge technologies, rigorous academics, current labor market information and career decision-making skills.

Laboratory experiences providing hands-on activities relating to the mastery of skills in agriculture mechanic technology, animal and plant science technology (including microbiological, biochemical and genetic disciplines), natural resource technology (including land, air and/or water laboratories), and computer applications.

Student leadership training through FFA, a national student leadership organization for students studying agriculture. Skills include teamwork, organization, career decision-making, and oral and written communications.

The supervised agricultural experience program providing a planned and supervised work experience through which students receive systematic and organized on-the-job training related to their agricultural education instruction. The work experience program is initiated by a written cooperative arrangement between the student, the school and the employer.

Out-of-School Youth and Adult Agricultural Education offerings providing additional training and retraining for those established or becoming established in the field of agriculture and/or related occupations.

Regional Vocational Agriculture Centers

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the program?

Vocational agriculture centers provide educational programs in the field of agriculture and related occupations, serving students within a region. These occupational areas may include aquaculture, animal and plant science, agricultural mechanics, agri-business, food science, biotechnology and the environment.

What is a Regional Vocational Agriculture Center?

Vocational agriculture centers prepare students for entry-level employment or higher education in the fields of agriculture and related occupations, as part of their high school program. Local, or regional boards of education may be designated as regional centers if approved by the State Board of Education

Who is eligible to attend?

Any student interested in a career in an agriculture-related field. Any school district that does not provide vocational agriculture instruction must designate a school for their students to attend. Districts are required to give vocational agriculture center personnel access to the schools for recruiting purposes.

Who pays for these schools?

Will the parent have to pay tuition for the student? The state pays each operating center a per student grant for each student enrolled. The district where the student lives pays tuition to the district operating the center. There is no tuition cost to the parents.

How will my child get to the agriculture center?

The district where the student lives must transport the student. Does the school provide for the needs of special education students? Yes. The special education costs are the responsibility of the district where the

student lives. The responsibility for holding the planning and placement team meetings belongs to the district where the student lives.

Whom do I contact to enroll my child in one of these centers?

Contact your local board of education for information. If the high school does not offer vocational agriculture instruction, it must designate a school or schools for its students to attend. Your local board office will have information on applying to the school operating the center.

If I have additional questions on the vocational agriculture program, whom can I contact?

Contact Mr. Milton S. Natusch, Connecticut State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457 or telephone 860-807-2104